

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2914

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK

SUBJECT:BOYD SAYS HE DOES NOT PLAN TO REPRESENT TUC AT

AFL-CIO CONVENTION

REF: (A) LONDON 7707, (B) LONDON 9793

BEGIN SUMMARY: ONE OF THE TWO FRATERNAL DELEGATES WHOM

THE TUC EXPECT TO DISPATCH TO THE AFL-CIO CONVENTION

OCTOBER 2-7 IS JOHN BOYD, CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE TUC

GENERAL COUNCIL, AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE AMALGA-

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MATED UNION OF ENGINEERING WORKERS (AUEW). THE OTHER IS

MARTIN REDMOND, 37, A NUM BRANCH DELEGATE AT THE CARCROFT WORKSHOP IN DONCASTER, YORKSHIRE, WHERE HE IS A SURFACE MINER AND AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE LOCAL LABOR PARTY. HOWEVER, BOYD THREATENS TO REFUSE THE TUC DESIGNATION FOLLOWING A DECISION BY HIS OWN UNION NOT TO RENOMINATE HIM AS A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE TUC NEXT SEPTEMBER. END SUMMARY.

1. BOYD, A STAUNCH MODERATE, IS A WELL-KNOWN TRADE UNION LEADER IN THE UK AND A LEADER OF RIGHT-WING FORCES IN HIS UNION. HE BECAME GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE AUEW RECENTLY, DEFEATING BOB WRIGHT, THE CANDIDATE OF THE LEFT (REF. A). HOWEVER, BY BECOMING GENERAL SECRETARY--A POST SECONDARY TO THAT OF THE PRESIDENT, HUGH SCANLON--BOYD LOST HIS SEAT ON THE UNION'S EXECUTIVE. THE EXECUTIVE LATER VOTED NOT TO RENOMINATE HIM AS A MEMBER OF THE NEW TUC GENERAL COUNCIL WHICH IS ELECTED AT THE TUC CONGRESS IN BLACKPOOL IN SEPTEMBER. (REG BIRCH, FOUNDER OF A TINY MAOIST PARTY, WAS NOMINATED INSTEAD REF.B.)

2. BOYD IS VERY BITTER ABOUT HIS EXECUTIVE'S DECISION NOT TO RENOMINATE HIM FOR A SEAT ON THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN A TRADITION IN THE AUEW WHEREBY GENERAL SECRETARIES ARE NOT NOMINATED FOR TUC GENERAL COUNCIL SEATS, BOYD ARGUES THAT HE HAS BEEN A TUC GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBER FOR MANY YEARS AND NO AUEW SITTING MEMBER HAS BEEN "DE-NOMINATED" EITHER. MOREOVER, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ELIGIBLE WITHIN A FEW YEARS TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE TUC HAD HE REMAINED ON THE GENERAL COUNCIL. HE TOLD THE EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE THAT HE DOES NOT PLAN TO ACCEPT THE TUC'S DESIGNATION AS A FRATERNAL DELEGATE TO THE AFL-CIO CONVENTION IF HE CANNOT DO SO AS A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL. HE SAID HE HOPES TO BE INVITED AT ANOTHER DATE BY A COUNTERPART UNION OF THE AUEW--SUCH AS THE AFL-CIO MACHINISTS. THIS DECISION, HE EMPHASIZED, IS NO REFLECTION ON HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY WHOM HE IS KEEPING INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING HIS ROLE IN THE BRITISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. (IF BOYD CARRIES OUT HIS THREAT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT COULD BE EMBARRASSING TO THE TUC EVEN THOUGH THE TUC IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHANGE IN BOYD'S STATUS.)

RICHARDSON

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